INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL 52ND MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA) 22 October 2012

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

		Documents
1.	Opening of the meeting	
2.	Election of the Presider	
3.	Adoption of the agenda	
4.	Approval of the minutes of the 51 st meeting	
5.	a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2012	IRP-52-05a
	b. Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2013	IRP-52-05b
6.	Review of AIDCP List of Qualified Captains	IRP-52-06
7.	Review of observer data	
8.	Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP:	
	a. Actions taken since report at 51 st meeting	IRP-52-08a
	b. Status review of special cases	IRP-52-08b
9.	Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking	
10.	Report of the Working Group to promote and publicize the <i>AIDCP Dolphin Safe</i> Tuna Certification System	
11.	Other business	
12.	Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties	
13.	Place and date of next meeting	
14.	Adjournment	

APPENDIX

1. List of attendees

The 52nd meeting of the International Review Panel was held in La Jolla, California (USA) on 22 October 2012. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

2. Election of the Presider

Mr. William Jacobson, of the United States, was elected to chair the meeting.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted, with items 7 and 8 transposed.

4. Approval of the minutes of the 51st meeting

The minutes of the 51st meeting of the Panel were approved without changes.

5. a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) for 2012

The Secretariat summarized the situation regarding the allocation, reallocation, and utilization of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) in 2012, described in Document IRP-52-05a. It was pointed out that, as of 3 October 2012, no vessel had exceeded its allocated DML for 2012, and the 7,650 sets on dolphins had resulted in a mortality of 739 dolphins.

b. DMLs for 2013

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-52-05b on the DMLs requested for 2013. All 90 vessels that requested DMLs were qualified to receive one. The European Union stated it was not appropriate for a vessel on the IATTC List of vessels involved in illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing to be granted a DML.

6. Review of AIDCP List of Qualified Captains

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-52-06, *Changes to the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains*, which updates the changes that occurred between 22 May and 4 October 2012. During that period, three captains were added, and none reinstated or removed.

7. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP

a. Actions taken since the report at the 51st meeting

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-52-08a, Responses to six types of possible infractions identified during the 51st meeting. There were two cases of observer harassment, both of which the respective governments reported was under investigation.

b. Status review of special cases

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-52-08b, Summary of pending special cases monitored by the IRP, in which three cases were reported.

CASE 51-01. The vessel, which had a DML, made a set on tunas associated with dolphins even though it did not have a dolphin safety panel in its net. The Secretariat reported this case to the respective Party on 21 August 2012; as of 17 October, no response had been received.

Panama stated that it sent a letter to the Secretariat on 21 October and that this case is under investigation.

CASE 51-02. The observer, from an observer program recognized by the AIDCP, did not send all the data required by the Agreement. The Party sent a letter to the Secretariat on 26 June 2012, in which it indicated that the failure to send the forms was not the fault of the vessel owner or operator, and offered to send the documentation of the trip that might be useful to the IATTC. The Party sent another letter on 12 October stating that it did not identify an infraction by the vessel owner or the vessel captain.

The Panel agreed that this case would be maintained as a special case until the Party in question determined whether the missing forms could be found. It decided that there was no infraction by the vessel owner or the vessel captain. The United States clarified that it had finished its investigation.

CASE 51-03.

The observer reported an attempt to bribe him in order to falsify data during the closure of the high-seas area in the eastern Pacific Ocean established by IATTC Resolution C-12-01. The Party was informed of this case on 21 August 2012; as of 17 October no response had been received.

Colombia indicated that it would send a response regarding this case, which is under investigation.

The Secretariat asked what action should be taken regarding special cases that had been under investigation for two years. The European Union urged the Parties to respond to such cases.

8. Review of observer data

The Secretariat presented the data reported by observers of the On-Board Observer Program relating to possible infractions received and processed by the Secretariat since the Panel's previous meeting. The Panel discussed those cases that were not automatically referred to the pertinent Parties, and forwarded those that indicated possible infractions of the AIDCP to the responsible government for investigation and possible sanction.

The following cases, identified by the corresponding trip number, were discussed:

2012491 and **2012497**. **Fishing without an observer**. Both vessels left port to fish without an observer aboard. In both cases, the observers were transported out to these vessels the following day. The Panel decided to forward each case to the Party in question for investigation.

2012351. Interference with the observer's work. The observer was prevented from accessing the bridge to carry out his work. The captain commented that the observer was asked not to be on the bridge all day, but that he was allowed access. The Panel decided to forward the case to the Party in question for investigation.

2012435. Interference with the observer's work. The observer reported physical and verbal aggression, and that he was pushed by the captain during a set. It was noted that the observer's comment should be made on the appropriate form in order to give the fishing captain a chance to respond. The Panel decided to forward the case to the Party in question for investigation.

9. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking

Mr. Luis Torres, of Ecuador, who chaired the meeting of the working group, presented his report. The working group recommended to the Panel that it monitor cases of presumably falsified Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs).

10. Report of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System

The report was presented by Mr. Bernal Chavarría, of Costa Rica, chairman of the group. He indicated that Mexico made a financial contribution and supported the activities of the group, and the Parties, the industry, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were encouraged to make contributions as well. Mexico presented a pamphlet for promoting the AIDCP for comments by the group. It was proposed that activities for publicizing the AIDCP should be carried out within the framework of the FAO and that a participation strategy should be developed. Mexico also presented a draft resolution on an "ecosystem-friendly" certification system. It was decided that this topic would be reviewed at the Meeting of the Parties.

11. Other business

There was no other business.

12. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties

The Panel agreed on the following recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties:

- 1. Approve the allocation of the DMLs to the 90 vessels that requested them for 2013.
- 2. Maintain the current three special cases until the next meeting of the Panel in order to determine what progress had been made. Case 51-02 would be maintained in order to allow time for the missing forms to be found, even though it had already been determined that neither the vessel

owner nor the vessel captain were responsible for the forms being mislaid.

- 3. Consider the recommendation of the working group on tuna tracking and verification that the IRP review as special cases the actions taken by Parties regarding cases of presumably falsified TTFs.
- 4. Review the cases in which a vessel left port without an observer because no observer was assigned promptly.
- 5. Consider the following recommendations of the working group on promoting and publicizing the AIDCP Dolphin safe label:
 - a) Ask FAO to include on its website a link to information about the AIDCP, and that the Secretariat prepare a report on the AIDCP and its dolphin safe label for review by the Parties and for distribution, as appropriate, at the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI).
 - b) Develop a strategy for publicizing the AIDCP at the principal international fisheries fairs.
 - c) Call on the Parties, the industry, and environmental NGOs to make contributions to facilitate publicizing the AIDCP.

13. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Panel will be held in June 2013, on the occasion of the meetings of the AIDCP.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm on 22 October 2012.

Appendix 1.

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